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NEWS

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Revealed spy funds

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CIA says NSA aides won't be prosecuted

Compiled FROM Dispatches

WASHINGTON — A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman said yesterday it was "inconceivable" that National Student Association members who disclosed their secret relationship with the CIA would be prosecuted for their unauthorized revelations.

Lawrence R. Houston, general counsel of the CIA, said in a telephone interview that "we have talked about that and there is to be no retribution, no prosecution."

"Of course, we don't like what has happened," Houston said. "And we certainly don't mean that the decision not to prosecute gives these people carte blanche to discuss anything further they may know that is of a confidential nature. There is some information we think they should plainly not discuss."

HOUSTON'S comments were a departure from the usual policy of CIA officials. In the past most CIA officials have declined any comment to newsmen. But Houston made it clear yesterday that he sought to reassure NSA officers or staff members that there would be no criminal prosecution.

"These boys were driven into a corner where they had to say something," he commented. He did not elaborate.

According to NSA officers, members of the student organization who had knowledge of the CIA's financial support or who

agreed to cooperate with the agency in collecting information abroad were required to sign a security agreement that firmly prohibited any disclosures, intentionally or through "negligence."

THE security oath, a copy of which was obtained yesterday from nonstudent sources, includes a warning that "intentional or negligent violation of this secrecy agreement may subject me to prosecution under the espionage laws of the United States of America."

Houston said yesterday that the key work is "may." "We would have to show intent to harm the United States by giving information to a foreign power," he said. "I don't think we could do that in this case."

The text of the CIA agreement had raised the question of whether the agency might attempt to prosecute NSA officers who made disclosures about the CIA's 15-year covert association with the student organization.

THE disclosure that a Harvard dean heads an organization that has received money from a CIA-conduit foundation was the latest development in what has been a burgeoning series of revelations since last week of the channeling of CIA funds to private organizations.

An organization headed by Richard M. Hunt, an assistant dean of the Harvard University graduate school of arts and sciences, has received money from

a foundation identified as a channel for CIA funds.

In 1965, according to records on file at the Massachusetts attorney general's office, Hunt's organization, the Fund for International Social and Economic Education of Philadelphia, received \$25,000 from the J. Frederick Brown Foundation of Boston.

THE Nation magazine said yesterday in an editorial that a subsidiary organization of the United States Information Service has received large grants from a foundation that distributed CIA funds to the NSA.

In its Feb. 27 issue, published yesterday, the weekly magazine said the Sidney and Esther Rabb Charitable Foundation "gave four times as much" to the Operations and Policy Research, Inc., (OPR) as it did to the students.

Dr. Evron M. Kirkpatrick, president of OPR's board of directors, issued a statement from his Washington home questioning whether foundations distribute money only for the CIA.

KIRKPATRICK said OPR was a "private research organization that does research for public and private organizations . . . on foundation grants."

The nation said the OPR helped the USIS "distribute more persuasive broadsides and magazines and books both in this country and abroad."